

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MONROVIA 1703 ACTION SECSTATE 31 MAR

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, IMCO, US, LI
SUBJECT: LIBERIAN CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON IMCO COUNCIL

REF: (A)STATE 226167 OF OCTOBER 14, 1974
(B) MONROVIA 5806 OF OCTOBER 8, 1974
(C) MONROVIA 0811

1. SUMMARY: GOL HAS AGAIN REQUESTED USG TO SUPPORT GOL CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON IMCO COUNCIL. NOTWITHSTANDING GENERAL POLICY OF MAKING SUCH DECISIONS AT CONFERENCE SITE IN LIGHT OF ALL CANDIDACIES, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS PROMPT DECISION TO INFORM GOL THAT USG WILL SUPPORT GOL CANDIDACY. GOL'S ARGUMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE STRONG, AND USG INTERESTS WOULD BE BETTER SDRVD BY PROMPT ESPOUSAL OF GOL POSITION RATHER THAN BY TEMPORIZING BUT COMING TO SAME DECISION IN LONG RUN ANYWAY. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE RECEIVED MARCH 28 FROM MINISTRY
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OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

OGIN QTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM IT OF THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA TO PRESENT ITS CANDIDATURE FOR ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO), DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IMCO THIS AUTUMN.

LIBERIA'S DECISION TO SEEK ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL IS BASED ON SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, LIBERIA IS THE LARGEST MARITIME NATION IN THE WORLD, HOLDING MORE THAN 2,500 SHIPS OR 60 MILLION TONS. SECONDLY, LIBERIA PAYS AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS TO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO IMCO. HER 1975 CONTRIBUTION TO IMCO IS 511,918 WHICH IS 5.8 PERCENT OF THE ORGANIZATIONS'S BUDGET AND THE LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTION. THIRDLY AND FINALLY, LIBERIA IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF IMCO. SHE HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKS OF MOST OF IMCO BODIES, PRESENTLY ALL EXCEPT ONE OR TWO. IN ADDITION, SHE HAS RATIFIED MOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONVENTIONS. BUT SINCE HER MEMBERSHIP IN IMCO ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, SHE HAS NEVER BEEN ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA BELIEVES THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT, WITH THE PRECEDING REASONS, THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL AGREE THAT LIBERIA SHOULD BE ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL OF IMCO AND HOPES THAT IT CAN RELY ON THE VALUABLE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA WISHES TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS KIND CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM. END QTE.

3. ABOVE NOTE, ALTHOUGH DIFFERENT IN LANGUAGE, IS IDENTICAL IN IMPORT TO GOL'S AUGUST 31, 1973, NOTE (MONROVIA 4816 OF AUGUST 31, 1973) REQUESTING US SUPPORT FOR LIBERIAN CANDIDACY FOR IMCO COUNCIL AT 8TH SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN LONDON IN NOVEMBER 1973. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT, RIGHTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR WRONGLY, GOL FELT USG HAD BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO GOL'S REQUEST FOR SUPPORT (MONROVIA 5806 AND STATE 226167).

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS GENERAL USG POLICY RE ADVANCE COMMITMENTS OF SUPPORT IN ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN GOVERNING BODIES OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (STATE 226167). NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT PRESENT REQUEST BE TREATED AS EXCEPTIONAL CASE:

A. GOL'S OWN ARGUMENTS (LIBERIA AS GREAT MARITIME NATION BASED ON TONNAGE AND SHIPS, GOL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMCO, FACT GOL IS FOUNDING MEMBER OF IMCO YET HAS NEVER BEEN ON COUNCIL) STRONGLY SUGGEST GOL ENTITLEMENT TO MEMBERSHIP ON COUNCIL. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY ANY OTHER CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE STRONGER ARGUMENTS FROM USG POINT OF VIEW.

MOREOVER, ON MAJOR MARITIME ISSUES, IN IMCO CONTEXT, GOL AND USG INTERESTS AND POSITIONS RUN PARALLEL. THERE COULD WELL BE POSSIBLE FAVORABLE SPINOFFS IN LOS CONTEXT, SINCE SAME LIBERIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN BACKSTOPPING LOS AS IMCO.

B. IF USG CANNOT BACK GOL IN THIS MATTER, WE HAD BETTER STOP TALKING ABOUT SPECIAL OR HISTORIC OR TRADITIONAL RELATIONS ALTOGETHER. EITHER LIBERIA GETS ONLY THE STANDARD TREATMENT OR, WHERE WE CAN AND AT SMALL COST, WE GIVE HER AN EDGE. IMCO COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP IS SURELY A CASE IN WHICH WE CAN GIVE GOL AN EDGE.

C. USG NEEDS AND URGES GOL SUPPORT IN VARIOUS FORA ON VARIOUS ISSUES, SUCH AS GRUNK AND PRG REPRESENTATION. FONMIN DENNIS HAS FLATLY STATED THAT GOL WANTS CONSIDERATION IN RETURN FOR ITS SUPPORT ON SUCH ISSUES, WHICH OFTEN ARE OF SMALL IMPORT TO GOL. US SUPPORT FOR GOL CANDIDACY FOR IMCO COUNCIL WOULD NOT ONLY INCREASE CHANCES FOR GOL SUPPORT FOR US POSITION ON SUCH ISSUES AS MENTIONED, BUT WOULD ALSO TEND TO DEFLECT GOL FROM SEEKING REWARD FOR SUCH SUPPORT IN LARGER AREA OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (MONROVIA 0811).

D. BY SAME TOKEN, HOWEVER, SUPPORT FOR GOL IN THIS INSTANCE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS GAINING MERE BROWNIE POINTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT WOULD SHOW USG SUPPORT JUST WHERE IT MEANS MOST, IN FINANCE MINISTRY.

5. WITH SOME DIFFIDENCE EMBASSY IS CONSTRAINED TO REMARK A DEFICIENCY IN PAST WAY OF DEALING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT RE VACANCIES IN GOVERNING BODIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. TWO IMPORTANT PARTIES WERE LEFT UNINFORMED OF USG SUPPORT FOR GOL CANDIDACY FOR IMCO COUNCIL LAST TIME: GOL AND THIS EMBASSY. LEAVING DECISION ON US SUPPORT TO LAST MINUTE BY USDEL AT CONFERENCE HAS POTENTIAL FOR GETTING IMPORTANT BILATERAL CONSIDERATIONS LOST IN SHUFFLE, AND, AS IN B, ABOVE, IN CASE OF GOL THERE IS AN IMPORTANT BILATERAL CONSIDERATION THAT USDEL COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO KNOW ABOUT. IN INSTANT CASE, GOL FOR ABOUT A YEAR NURSED AN UNNECESSARY FEELING OF GRIEVANCE. WE ACCEPT THAT COOPER WAS INFORMED AT CONFERENCE SITE, BUT OBVIOUSLY HE LOST TRACK OF THAT FACT. SMALL OVERWORKED DELEGATIONS, WITH POOR COMMUNICATIONS, RECORDS KEEPING AND FILING SYSTEMS WILL DO THAT. NET LOSER WAS USG, FOR IT DID SUPPORT GOL BUT LOST CREDIT FOR THAT SUPPORT AGAINST WHICH TO BALANCE OUR REQUESTS FOR GOL SUPPORT

IN OTHER CONTEXTS.

6. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE INSTRUCTED PROMPTLY TO
INFORM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT USG WILL SUPPORT GOL'S
CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON IMCO COUNCIL.

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